

Readington Township Open Space Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

February 1, 2023

PRESENT:

MEMBER	JAN 4	FEB 1	MAR 1	APR 5	MAY 3	JUN 7	AUG 2	SEP 6	OCT 4	NOV 1
Mr. Huelsebusch, Chair	X									
Ms. Allen, Vice Chair	X	X								
Mr. Bola	X	X								
Dr. Hendrickson	X	X								
Mr. John	X	X								
Dr. Kelly										
Mr. Mueller	X	X								
Mr. Orlandi		X								
Ms. Owen	X									
Mr. Dunn, 1 st Alternate	X	X								
Mr. Klotz, 2nd Alternate	X	X								

Adam Mueller left the meeting at 7:31 PM.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Scott Armstrong, Brian Armstrong

Vice Chair Allen called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM announcing all laws governing the Open Public Meetings Act have been met and that this meeting has been duly advertised.

SCOUT PROJECT: East Whitehouse Greenway Trail

Boy Scout Brian Armstrong presented an overview of his project which will encompass blazing and reblazing trails on the East Whitehouse Greenway, as well as, color coding the trails with trail markers. Brian’s project will also include construction and installation of two (2) bridges. Adam Mueller made a motion to approve the project with amendments and improvements as per discussed, seconded by Emanuel Bola, all approved and motion was passed.

COMMUNITY:

- 1) **Website:** Mario Orlandi stated that an article describing the clean water collaboration with Raritan Headwaters was posted on the Township website.
- 2) **Open Space Walks:** John Klotz stated that the February 19th walk was posted on the website and will be held on Cole Rd. Greenway.

- 3) **Trails:** Chris John and John Klotz discussed the upcoming trail work sessions and upcoming work schedule. John stated that he will post the volunteer work schedule on the Township website.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: John Klotz made a motion to approve the January minutes, seconded by Emanuel Bola, all approved.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

REPORTS:

- 1) **Farmland Preservation / Green Acres:** Julia Allen stated that there are currently three (3) applications pending with the State of NJ (Saums, Baron, Lightfield).
- 2) **Hunterdon County Parks / OSAB:** Neil Hendrickson stated that Dan Bush from Hunterdon County Parks will be conducting a tree planting session on April 15th at Echo Hill Environmental Center.
- 3) **Environmental Commission Update:**
 - a. **Environmental Resource Inventory:** Neil Hendrickson reported on the update to the Environmental Inventory and stated that he is working with the other Township boards for their input on what should be included, such as; water, trails, farms, etc. Neil stated that Princeton Hydro would like to have the initial information by the end of February.
 - b. **EC Logo:** Neil stated that he reached out to local art students to create a logo for the Township Environmental Commission.
 - c. **Free Trees:** Neil Hendrickson stated that he submitted an order for free trees from the State Forestry Nursery.
 - d. **Salting/Brining Data:** Neil discussed getting baseline data for salts/brine that currently exists in Township water. Neil stated that data will need to be gathered after a snowfall and that he is working with Public Works Director Ron Christy on this project.
- 4) **WaterWatch Updates:** Mario Orlandi discussed the upcoming annual Stream Cleanup held in collaboration with Raritan Headwaters. Mario stated that last year's cleanup had an increase in the number of volunteers, therefore, he is planning to expand the area of cleanup and also work on identifying storm damage along smaller streams.
- 5) **Township Updates:** nothing to report

ONGOING BUSINESS:

- 1) **Trails Subcommittee:** John Klotz stated that discussion was held on trails clearing, volunteer sessions, and kiosk updates. John stated that he inspected all 22 kiosks in the Township and there are three or four that need immediate improvements. John stated that the trails committee is also working on a needs assessment (spread sheet) and he asked the board for their input. John recommended signage installed at some of the greenways/trails due to dumping/trash issues. John asked the board to take notice, while they are on the Township trails, for any future sites for tree planting.

- 2) **Stewardship:** Neil Hendrickson stated that he met with Dr. Kelly, Robert Becker and Chair Huelsebusch to discuss the recent grant monies received. The \$50,000 grant will focus on two areas for evaluation (multi-spectrum data) which will be Round Mountain and Cushetunk Mountain. Neil stated that Dr. Kelly is looking into coordinating this project with Raritan Valley Community College students. The \$250,000 grant will focus on meadow plantings, fence installation, and controlling invasives. Location for these improvements will be discussed at a future stewardship meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: nothing to report.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: no comments.

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD: John Klotz stated that the protocol/process for Scout projects needs to be more in line with the rigorous procedure in the past, such as; better description of project, advance notice of project description, advance notice to the board when a Scout will be presenting at a meeting, etc. The board agreed to discuss this further at the next meeting.

ADJOURN: Emanuel Bola made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Neil Hendrickson, followed by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Meg A. Slutter